

October 2, 2007

NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS ON C&D WASTE

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For review and discussion

Montgomery County Bill 17-06 enacted into law in [2006] provides requirements for construction or renovation of certain non-residential buildings and multi-family residential buildings “to achieve certain standards relating to energy efficiency and environmental design.” The standards are outlined in the green building certification process, known as LEED®, through a scorecard of practices. The segregation and recycling of construction and demolition (C&D) waste is one practice through which a building may achieve the points needed to achieve a green building designation. Provisions of Bill 17-06 will be implemented effective September 1, 2008.

Montgomery County has no law that requires segregation or recycling of C&D waste by site owners, developers, construction firms, or waste haulers; these practices are voluntary. The County does not operate a facility for the capture and recycling of C&D waste (what about Montgomery County contracts with private companies to achieve recycling of C&D waste.)

The Division of Solid Waste Services estimates that Montgomery County generates some 300,000 tons of C&D waste annually. Of the incoming C&D waste, approximately 2,500 tons goes to the DOT pad to be sent to Laurel, MD, for recycling; some 50,000 tons are nonprocessible (for example, brick with rebar, bulky wood waste) and are buried in the County’s Brunswick, VA, landfill; 57,000 tons of burnable materials are used as fuel at the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), with some recapture of metals; the remainder (about 150,000 tons) is hauled out-of-county and out of state to such facilities as: Fort Totten (DC); Elkridge, MD; Virginia (Waste Management); and EAI (location unknown).

Most concrete (with rebar) and brick go to the Brunswick facility to be buried.

Clean concrete and asphalt waste goes to the Recycling Center in Laurel, MD, for recycling.

General road demolition waste is often contaminated with soil and cannot be recycled.

Experienced demolition contractors capture and sell recyclable metals (rebar, copper, aluminum, and iron) from large demolition sites for cash payment – to a privately owned facility in Montgomery County or to out-of-county recyclers. Scrap metals in commingled waste at Shady Grove are captured at the RRF with a magnet (not applicable to aluminum).

Construction and demolition waste in hired “dumpsters” (roll-offs) is often contaminated (soil, yard waste, furniture). It can be delivered to the Shady Grove Transfer Station as commingled waste; or hauled out of county. The County does not separate recyclable building materials (at Shady Grove) from C&D loads. Ferrous metals are recovered with a scrap metal magnet [at the RRF].

The MSW notes the following:

The County is not receiving good recyclable building waste. A great deal is contaminated.

There is a need for more physical space to stage the segregation of waste: drywall, old insulation, and flooring.

There is a shortage of brick, and there is a demand for clean brick (market-driven).

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee sees multiple benefits in improving the rate of recycling of C&D waste to be compatible with the requirements of Bill 17-06, which takes effect in 2008, including:

- Capture the embodied energy in materials such as (new) drywall and brick through recycling.
- Reduce the tonnage going to the RRF and possibly to the Brunswick landfill.
- Reduce the amount of nonrenewable energy used to manufacture building materials.
- Reduce consumption of raw materials, some of which may not be renewable.
- Be compatible with the legal requirements of Montgomery County Bill 17-06.

(OTHERS ?)

Recommendations:

- 1) County should add language in standard contracts (for curbs and sidewalks) that the contractor will recycle clean concrete and asphalt removed during replacement.
- 2) Ten-year plan should add measurable goals to improve recycling of C&D waste to reduce the rate of nonprocessible waste going to Brunswick and sustain approved tonnage levels burned at the RRF.
- 3) Add information (best practices) into site development and permitting process.
- 4) Provide funding for outreach education materials and workshops for contractors and haulers –informative materials and requirements.
- 5) Add information to the Division of Solid Waste Services website with “best practices” for all builder owners and builders.
- 6) Identify possible collaboration with (PG/Baltimore City) to create market-based C&D waste recycling opportunities,
- 7) Explore possible sites for storing or staging new and reusable building materials (for example, new drywall, joists, studs),
- 8) Make the (Metropolitan Council of Government’s) builders’ guide available during site approval and permitting processes.